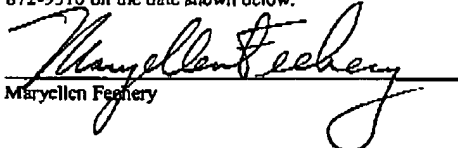


107. (new) A method of stabilizing a hydroquinone composition, comprising hydroquinone and one or more protected retinoids, comprising:
maintaining pH of the composition at about 5.5 to about 8.0.
108. (new) The method of claim 107 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 4%.
109. (new) The method of claim 107 wherein the hydroquinone is present at about 2% to about 10%.
110. (new) The method of claim 107 wherein the protected retinoid comprises at least one of the group consisting of retinoic acid, retinol, retinal, retinoid analogues, tazarotene, adapalene, isotretinoin and its isomers.
111. (new) The method of claim 107 wherein the protected retinoid is present from about 0.025% to about 2.0%.
112. (new) The method of claim 107 wherein the pH is about 6.0 to about 7.5.
113. (new) The method of claim 107 wherein the protected retinoid is protected with a protective system.
114. (new) A method of stabilizing a mixture comprising:
mixing hydroquinone, and one or more protected retinoids; and
adjusting pH of the mixture to about 5.5 to about 8.0.
115. (new) A method of stabilizing a mixture comprising:
mixing hydroquinone, and one or more protected retinoids;
adjusting pH of the mixture to about 5.5 to about 8.0; and
maintaining the pH at about 5.5 to about 8.0.
116. (new) A method of stabilizing a mixture of hydroquinone and one or more retinoids, comprising:
protecting the retinoids in a protective system;
mixing the hydroquinone, and the protected retinoids; and
adjusting pH to about 5.5 to about 8.0.

Authorization of Deposit Account

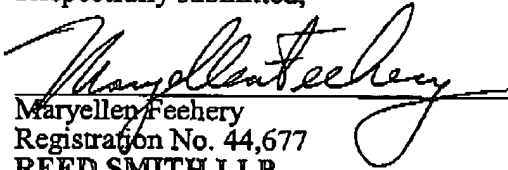
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Maryellen Feehery

September 4, 2002
Date of Facsimile Transmission

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